

Message Text

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43

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPACREP GUAM TTPI MI

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

COMNAVPHIL SUBIC BAY RP

CINCPAC HONO HI

UNCLAS STATE 216845

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: FISHING BOATS MEKONG 2, THAI-BINH I,
VIET THUY I, NAMHAI 6

1. IATF/WASHINGTON WAS ADVISED BY THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM THAT PERSONS CLAIMING OWNERSHIP OF THE ABOVE VESSELS WANT TO OBTAIN THEM FROM USNS SUBIC BAY TO USE IN FISHING INDUSTRY ON GUAM. PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THEM WERE LISTED AS FOLLOWS BY THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

A. MEKONG 2: NGUYEN-VAN CHU, CAMP ASAN, BLDG. 506

B. THAI-BINH I: PHAN-XUAN-BAN AND "LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE" TRAN-VAN DUC, CAMP ASAN BLDG. 506.

C. VIET THUY I: PHAN-XUAN BAN AND "LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE"
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TRAN-VAN-DUC.

D. NAMHAI 6: "LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE" NGUYEN MIN TAM.

2. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN IATF COMPUTER IS INSUFFICIENT TO IDENTIFY THESE INDIVIDUALS. THEREFORE, IT CANNOT BE DETERMINED IF THEY ARE STILL AT GUAM. IF THEY ARE, PLEASE ADVISE THEM OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE BOATS ARE ALL STILL AFLOAT IN GENERALLY POOR CONDITION BUT WITH OPERABLE ENGINES.

B. THE THAI BINH HAS A REPARABLE HOLE ABOVE THE WATERLINE. THERE IS WATER IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT AND IT WILL PROBABLY NEED A NEW CLUTCH.

C. NAVAL LEGAL SERVICES GUAM ADVISES THAT THERE APPEAR TO BE NO COMPETING CLAIMS FOR THE SHIPS FROM PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OR FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

D. THE BOATS ARE IN PHILIPPINE TERRITORIAL WATERS, BUT ARE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE US NAVAL SHIP REPAIR FACILITY. IT IS NAVY POLICY NOT TO CHARGE FOR SERVICES RENDERED SO FAR BUT THE NAVY WOULD HAVE TO BE REIMBURSED FOR REPAIRING AND REPROVISIONING THE SHIPS.

3. THERE MAY BE CONSIDERABLE COST INVOLVED IN MAKING THE SHIPS SEAWORTHY AND SUPPLYING THEM WITH FUEL, FOOD, ETC. FOR THE JOURNEY FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO GUAM. IATF WILL ASK THE NAVY TO PROVIDE AN ESTIMATE OF THESE COSTS IF ABOVE PERSONS STILL CLAIM THE BOATS AND WANT TO GO TO SUBIC TO GET THEM.

4. REQUEST YOU DETERMINE FROM PERSONS LISTED IN PARA ONE IF THEY DESIRE TO GO TO THE PHILIPPINES TO SAIL THE BOATS TO GUAM. THE PERSONS LISTED SHOULD BE TOLD THAT THERE IS AS YET ABSOLUTELY NO ASSURANCE THAT THEY CAN GO TO THE PHILIPPINES. THERE ARE MANY OBSTACLES TO THEIR GOING SUCH AS THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TOWARDS THEIR ENTRY, THE NECESSITY OF OBTAINING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FROM INS AND CONSIDERABLE TRAVEL EXPENSES.
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PERSONS LISTED IN PARA ONE SHOULD BE TOLD THAT THEY ARE BEING ASKED ONLY TO DETERMINE IF THEY STILL CLAIM THE BOATS AND WANT TO GO GET THEM. KISSINGER

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